

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim [[1]] 15 for an engine in which coolant flows through the at least one first coolant cavity such that at least in an area of this first coolant cavity a main flow component of the flow of coolant runs approximately parallel to the gasket plate, wherein the at least one flow conducting element is designed so as to engage in the first coolant cavity and to form, when the cylinder head gasket is installed, such an impingement and deflector surface for the main flow component that a flow of coolant directed transversely to the gasket plate enters the coolant passage opening associated with the flow conducting element.

3. (currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim [[1]] 15, wherein the at least one flow conducting element is designed so as to engage in the at least one second coolant cavity and is provided at the outlet end of the flow path with a nozzle for generating a directed jet of coolant in the second coolant cavity.

4. (previously presented) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the at least one flow conducting element is designed so as to engage in the at least one second coolant cavity and is provided at the outlet end of the flow path with a nozzle for generating a directed jet of coolant in the second coolant cavity.

USSN 10/647,363

5.(currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim [[1]] 15, wherein at least in an inflow area the at least one flow conducting element is designed like a guide vane.

6.(currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim [[1]] 15, wherein at least in an inflow area the at least one flow conducting element has a tube shape.

7.(currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim [[1]] 15, wherein the at least one flow conducting element is manufactured as a separate part and is attached to the gasket plate.

8.(previously presented) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the gasket plate comprises at least one sheet metal layer out of which a guide vane-like section is bent in the area of at least one coolant passage opening.

9.(previously presented) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the guide vane-like section forms on the gasket plate a pocket or scoop opening in a direction approximately parallel to the plane of the gasket plate and continuing integrally at its sides and at its base into the sheet metal layer.

10.(currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the gasket plate comprises at least one sheet metal layer out of which the edge area of the coolant passage opening is bent and thereby forms at least one of a tube-shaped flow conducting element [[and]] or a nozzle-shaped flow conducting element.

USSN 10/647,363

11.(currently amended) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 6, wherein the gasket plate comprises at least one sheet metal layer out of which the edge area of the coolant passage opening is bent and thereby forms at least one of a tube-shaped flow conducting element or a nozzle-shaped flow conducting element.

12.(previously presented) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the gasket plate is multilayered and comprises a sheet metal layer consisting of low-alloy steel, and the flow conducting element is formed by a shaped area of this low-alloy steel sheet metal layer.

13.(previously presented) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the gasket plate is multilayered and comprises a sheet metal layer consisting of low-alloy steel, and the flow conducting element is formed by a shaped area of this low-alloy steel sheet metal layer.

14.(previously presented) Cylinder head gasket in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the gasket plate is multilayered and comprises a sheet metal layer consisting of low-alloy steel, and the flow conducting element is formed by a shaped area of this low-alloy steel sheet metal layer.

USSN 10/647,363

15.(new) A cylinder head gasket for an engine having an engine component in the form of an engine block and another engine component in the form of a cylinder head with at least one coolant cavity formed in said engine block adjacent to said cylinder head and at least one coolant cavity formed in said cylinder head adjacent to said engine block to provide a flow of coolant through at least a first one of said coolant cavities in a first one of said engine components such that at least in an area of this first coolant cavity a main flow component of said flow of coolant runs approximately parallel to a gasket plate of the cylinder head gasket when it is installed on the engine, said cylinder head gasket having at least one flow conducting element for the coolant so as to protrude from the gasket plate at a location thereof to engage in said first coolant cavity when the cylinder head gasket is installed, said gasket plate comprising at least one coolant passage opening for communicating said first coolant cavity with a coolant cavity formed in a second one of said engine components when the cylinder head gasket is installed, wherein said at least one flow conducting element is joined to said at least one coolant passage opening to provide a flow path comprising said at least one flow conducting element and said coolant passage opening and having an inlet end defined by said flow conducting element as well as an outlet end, said at least one flow conducting element providing an impingement and deflector surface for said main flow component disposed between said inlet end and said at least one coolant passage opening such that, when the cylinder head gasket is installed, part of said main flow component is deflected to provide a flow of coolant entering said coolant

USSN 10/647,363

passage opening in a direction generally transverse to the gasket plate and generating a directed flow of coolant at the outlet end of the flow path.